



Hello Friends,

I proudly honored Justin Bond of Hanford as my selection for the 2008 Veteran of the Year for the 30th Assembly District. The Veteran of the Year event was held by the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee to commemorate extraordinary Veterans in California actively working toward making a difference in their respective communities.

Justin Bond has been a leader in Kings County and a true champion of Veterans throughout the 30th Assembly District. He has been relentless in his commitment to his country, his community, and his fellow service members. Justin has overcome many personal obstacles to make the world a better place for our brave men and women fighting overseas and fighting for a better life once they come home.

Justin Bond, a resident of Hanford, served in the United States Army from 1995 to 2005. He was wounded in Iraq, after an ambush left him with damage to both knees. Since his return home and during his recovery, Justin has worked to help other wounded veterans by raising funds and hosting events. **He started “Bowling for Wounded Soldiers” which raised money to help families travel to Washington, DC to visit with their injured soldiers while they recover. Justin raised over \$25,000 through this effort alone.**

Justin Bond also initiated a drive to collect books and board games to send to soldiers in Iraq. He was able to collect over 50,000 books to send overseas. Justin is currently pursuing a project to bicycle across the United States through the foundation he started called Wounded Soldiers and Family Relief Fund. Justin is married to Laurel Bond and they have two children, Jennifer and Jared.

What’s Happening in Sacramento

This week, Assemblymember Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) was sworn in as Speaker of the State Assembly. Our new Speaker makes history on a couple of fronts. It promotes a Democratic woman to the post for the first time in the state's history. Along with the California political first, Speaker Bass makes national history as the first African American woman to serve in this powerful state elected role in the country. **Speaker Bass has already outlined three significant goals: 1)**

Pass a state budget that reflects California's priorities, 2) Develop long-term solutions to our state's budget woes, and 3) Create a long-term funding mechanism for foster care efforts. Speaker Bass has already demonstrated a desire to work with members of both parties and the Central Valley delegation in helping California achieve its promise. I welcome Karen Bass' ascendancy to Speaker, and look forward to working closely with her in the months ahead.

Yesterday, the Governor introduced his May revise budget. The Governor outlined his proposals to close a rising budget deficit. Primary to this solution is the expansion of the state lottery and borrowing against its future profits to close the budget gap. Cuts would loom for many programs, particularly health and social services, such as funding for public transit and welfare efforts. The State's Legislative Analyst Office is expected to release their review next week. To read the Governor's revised budget, visit: www.ebudget.ca.gov

Beginning February 2009, all television broadcast signals will be digital. The era of analog signals and "rabbit ears" – or outside antennas – will come to an end. The government will be reclaiming the analog broadcast signals for a number of reasons, including enhancement of emergency and public safety communications. If your television is connected to cable or another video service provider, you will not need to take further action. If not, I urge you to check out the following website to better prepare yourself for this major technological shift: www.dtvanswers.com

My Legislative Highlights

Congratulations to Home Garden Community Services District in Hanford. They were recently awarded a construction loan from the California Department of Public Health's Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to enhance the provision and protection of the drinking water supplied to local consumers.

I am proud to say that the California State Employment Training Panel has approved a job training grant for CalGren Renewable Fuels in Pixley. The training will enable the company to update the skills of 50 employees in its workforce to help CalGren address out-of-state competition and remain competitive.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

Robert Arendt and Jacky Parks from the Fresno Police Officers Association came to visit along with the Peace Officers Research Association of California. We had a good discussion about important public safety legislation, including SB 1361 which would require repeat driving under the influence (DUI) offenders to have Ignition Interlock devices installed on their cars to prevent further drunk driving incidents. www.fresnopoa.org

I enjoyed visiting with students from Kettleman City and Avenal that came to visit Sacramento for the day. **Approximately 80 students from Kettleman City Elementary School and Avenal Elementary School in Reef-Sunset Unified School District** spent the day touring the Capitol,

visiting Old Town Sacramento, and having lunch in Capital Park.

This time of year is marked not only by a flurry of bills in the Capitol, but also the increase in visits from students throughout the 30th Assembly District and the state. While I do my best to meet with a many of these visits as possible, I wish I could truly meet with every student who makes the trek to Sacramento. Many schools have made the trip north numerous times in the past and do a wonderful job of booking a tour well ahead. **For school tours, I want to encourage you to make your reservations to tour the Capitol as soon as you can, by calling Reserve America at 866-240-4655.**

In the District

I proudly presented special awards to nine women from the 30th Assembly District, as part of a ceremony honoring “Leading Ladies” in the Central Valley. Held in Bakersfield, I initiated the Garden Tea Party Awards two years ago to publicly recognize local contributions made by local residents.

These women represent what **Kern County** is all about. They epitomize the spirit of giving and civic participation. I am honored to recognize their tremendous contributions to the quality of life in the Central Valley. Their selflessness and commitment to their community makes all of us in Kern County stronger.

The following individuals were recognized for their community service efforts and achievements. In alphabetical order: **Jo Anne Brit – Arvin, Dorothy Hefner – Delano, Maria Hernandez – Lamont, Vicki Hight – Wasco, Frances Metzker – Buttonwillow, Yolanda Morales – Mc Farland, Liz Morris – Delano, Gloria Patterson – Bakersfield, and Janice Smith – Shafter**

This is the 3rd Annual Garden Tea Party for the 30th Assembly District. Supporters of the event include State Farm Insurance; Wells Fargo Bank; Sierra Recycling; Omega Insurance; Lane Family Funeral Homes of Delano; Big West Oil Refinery; Strong Realty; Attorney Jennifer Floyd; Attorney David Torres, Allison Perkins-Thomas; Wilma Rucker of Rucker’s Family Mortuary; and the Law Offices of Floyd and Horrigan. Award recipients were selected based on their records of community service and involvement.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and

Sacramento offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at:

Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:

Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
Suite B
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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